

Assignment 6

Assignment 6 – Summary

In the short-film, “I Don’t Make the Rules” by Law Chen we’re following Stephen. He is a grown-up man with a lot of small jobs just to make it all go around. We’re following his journey trying to get a better job. Several times he is let down by companies, who don’t see him as the right candidate. In the end, Stephen is finally called in for a job interview. The interviewer finds him interesting, but not with right qualifications. So when he finds out that the choice is between him and another man, who has a lot more experience, he plays a security guard and tells him that the position is filled. He gets called in again, and then he overhears that the other man’s kid is in the hospital. Stephen chooses not to take the job and in the end, we see him back on the street with his small jobs.

Assignment 6 – Analytical essay

A lot of people are fighting to get their dream job in a world with a lot of different positions. The problem is that there are sky-high demands to all of them, so without an education and a lot of working experience, it is hard to be get your dream job. In the short-film “I Don’t Make the Rules”, Stephen is fighting to get his dream job at a law firm.

Stephen is the main character and between all of the applying for jobs, he is working many small jobs, just to pay the bills. He is standing on the street, getting people to work out, he cleans the fitness center and he is a bouncer at a fancy club, which are all low paying, and low status jobs. At first, Stephen seems like a nice guy just trying to get an enjoyable existence. He’s fighting for what he wants, even though he gets turned down every time. There is a scene in the short-film, around 06:27-06:58, where we learn how Stephen’s path in life has changed. Especially the framing at 06.49 with his sad face is in the front of the picture shows us how devastated he feels, but it is also blurry, so we quickly focus on the pictures on his mirror. These tell us that as a young boy, he had a bright future playing football, but he had to end his career because of an injury, which led to a huge medical-bill, which keeps following him. Instead of a football career, he’s now fighting for a job at a law-firm.

The setting of the short-film is in a big city, probably New York. New York is a fancy city, but with most people fighting just to pay their bills. This might mean that people sometimes have to do something unpleasant to get ahead. For example, when Stephen, who meets a more experienced rival at the job interview, gets intimidated and ends up lying to the other man by playing a security guard and making him leave. He’s beginning to become like the people he doesn’t like; the ones with a higher social status, but when he finds out about the man’s kid at the hospital, he’s struck with a guilty conscience. Thus, the conflict in the movie is whether Stephen should do whatever it takes to make it or if he should stay true to himself. Having a lot of money and success can sometimes be a bad thing; mostly for the ones who can’t handle it. They see themselves as better than others. That is exactly what we see when three young men come up to Stephen in the club and he rejects them because of the dress code. They try to bribe him with money, get mad when it fails and finally make fun of him. Again, he has to choose between money and doing the right thing.

The title refers a bit to the open ending of the short-film where Stephen also mentions “I Don’t Make the Rules”, but actually, he does. He’s refusing to play dirty and to become a person he doesn’t like, so in this way he is making his own rules.

Stephen does not get his dream job this time around, but it seems like he will keep fighting for it. He will not compromise his values for success and maybe that is a bigger success than getting some well-paid job. You can always lose a job, but no one can take away your character.

Assignment 6 – Discussion

Social status often doesn’t affect people, but when it does, it is more frequently seen among young people, such as the young lawyers in the film. In high school, social status is everything; especially for girls, who can become very mean when they know which status they have in their group. It’s not only in high school we see this, but also in the work place in companies, where the bosses have a higher status and therefore are stepping all over their employees. Several bosses lead with fear and not motivation, and that is what starts conflict. Even though we’re talking about grown-ups, this is very common nowadays. Having a high social status can be a blessing or a very bad thing. The good ones choose to help other people instead of becoming a way too proud person, who only praises himself or herself. Being humble and sweet to your fellow human beings gives you so much. Not only you’re getting friends for life, you’re winning in life by being a humble, sweet, empathic and a careful human being. Why not exploit your social status by being a great leader with the ability to help people, animals or a third option? Nonetheless, karma will hit you at some point, so being rude won’t do anything good for your life. It is okay to be rude when you’re a kid because when you’re a kid, there is a pair of parents at home, who will teach you how to behave. Being a grown up and being rude is not a positive quality, and a lot of people should get a telling-off about that.